

*U.S> Patent Application 10/790,386***Listing of Claims**

1. (withdrawn) A composition for preventing or reducing skin aging and wrinkling, which comprises at least one matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor (MMPI) and at least one estrogen or phytoestrogen.
2. (withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1 further comprising a cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable topical carrier.
3. (canceled)
4. (withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1 wherein said estrogen or phytoestrogens is a plant extract, a purified phytoestrogen, a synthetic phytoestrogen, a natural estrogen, or a synthetic estrogen.
5. (withdrawn) The composition according to claim 4 wherein the plant extract is black cohosh extract.
6. (withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1 wherein the phytoestrogen is a triterpenoid glycoside.
7. (withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of MMPI to estrogen or phytoestrogens is between about 10:1 and about 1:10.
8. (withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1 comprising a concentrations of about 10 ng/mL to about 100 mg/mL of the MMPI and estrogen or phytoestrogen.
9. (withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1 further comprising compounds active at blocking UVA and UVB radiation.
10. (canceled)

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11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (original) A method for minimizing the adverse effects of aging on skin comprising contacting said skin with (a) a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor, MMPI, and (b) an estrogen or phytoestrogen.
14. (original) The method according to claim 13 wherein said contacting is conducted at least once every twenty-four hours for the entire period during which said minimizing of the adverse effects of aging on skin is conducted.
15. (original) The method according to claim 13 wherein said contacting is conducted prior to exposure to sunlight.
16. (original) The method according to claim 15 wherein said method further comprises contacting the skin with compounds which block UVA and UVB.
17. (original) The method according to claim 13 wherein said contacting comprises administering said MMPI and estrogen or phytoestrogen in a dermal preparation.
18. (original) The method according to claim 17 wherein said dermal preparation comprises about 40% by weight of water; up to about 35% by weight, of a permeation enhancing compound selected from the group consisting of dibutyl adipate, isopropyl myristate and combinations thereof; up to about 15% by weight of a fatty alcohol; and one or more emollients or moisturizing humectants.
19. (original) The method according to claim 13 for treating wrinkling in post-menopausal women.

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20. (original) The method according to claim 13 for treating wrinkling in pre-menopausal women.
21. (original) The method according to claim 13 for treating wrinkling in men.
22. (original) The method according to claim 13 which comprises repeatedly performing said contacting over an extended period of time.
23. (original) A method for minimizing, treating, reversing or avoiding the adverse effects of smoking or smoke exposure on skin comprising contacting said skin with (a) a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor, MMPI, and (b) an estrogen or phytoestrogen.